

# Western Forest Leadership Coalition Briefing Paper “BLACK HILLS REGIONAL MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE STRATEGY”

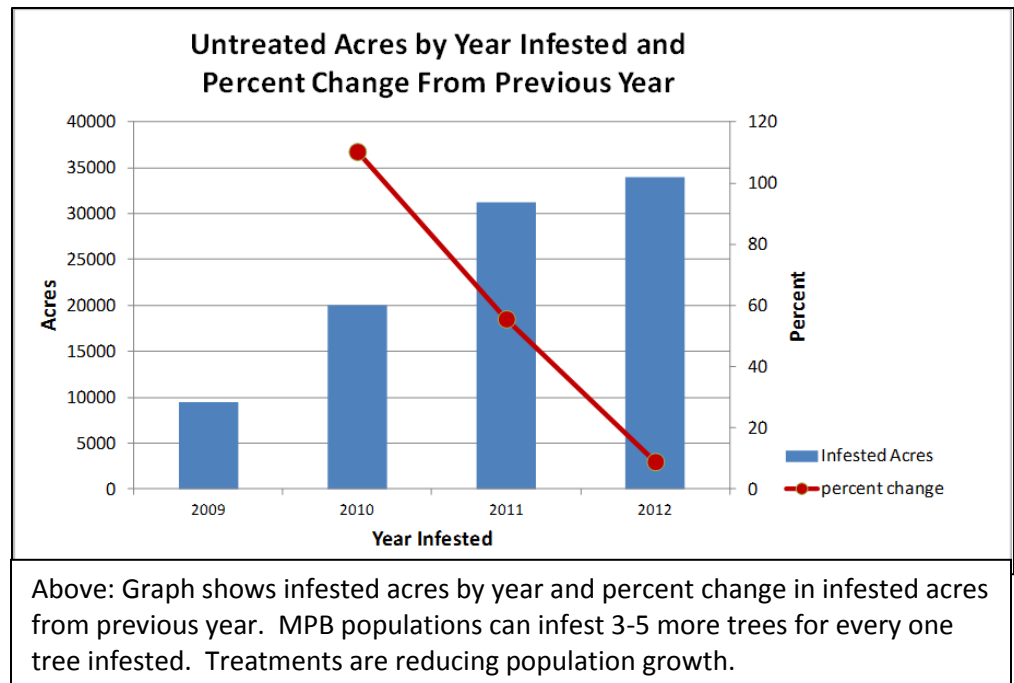
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## Introduction

- Fifty “conservation leaders” – collaborative...*Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy*, 2012.
- *Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group*: Crook and Weston counties (WY), Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington counties (SD); Wyoming Forestry Division; SDDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry; USFS-Black Hills National Forest (also representing NPS, BLM and NRCS); and the Black Hills Forest Resource Association.

## Epidemic – the status

- Beetle has affected 430,000 acres since 1996 in the Black Hills (SD & WY).
- 95,000 acres of new untreated, infested trees since 2010<sup>1</sup>.
- Rate of infestation is declining in places, but remains at epidemic levels in others.
- Treatment on 350,000 acres in the last two years has contributed to the decline.



## Accomplishments – 2013

- Marked 500,000 infested trees on 208,000 surveyed acres (private, state and federal lands).
- Non-commercially treated, i.e. “cut/chunk”, 343,000 trees on 165,000 acres.
- Timber sales on 27,000 acres - sawmilled ~330,000 infested trees, and created healthier forests.
- Informational meetings and media events to raise understanding.
- Coordinated work with utilities to reduce maintenance costs along utility corridors.

## Current Action – FY14

- 1) Forest Service timber sales totaling about 25,000 acres are scheduled for areas with most active infestations ...an additional \$1.5 million made available will increase the Federal response. Using the adaptive *Pine Beetle Response Project* where appropriate. NPS and BLM commensurate response. NRCS supporting private landowners.

<sup>1</sup> Data from 2013 aerial photo flight coordinated by the SDDA-Div. of Res. Cons. & Forestry (with multi-partner funds), and analyzed by a group including Neiman Timber Company, USFS, Weston County NR and W&P Districts, WY Forestry Division, and SDDA-RCF. Infested acres are likely higher as many trees were removed after infestation in 2011 but before the aerial photo flight in summer 2013.

- 2) WY and SD counties are removing dead and infested trees from road ROWs and completing cut/chunk in priority areas on NFS lands using State funds for FY14.
- 3) State of SD building on success in Custer State Park; marked 80,000 trees for 1,173 private landowners participating in a cost-share program. State of WY providing funds and technical assistance to county cooperators and funded actions on NFS lands.
- 4) Industry shifting operations to priority sales and boosting blue-stain component, funded aerial mapping and collaboration effort.

### A Collaborative "All Lands" Mountain Pine Beetle Response - FY15

A recently developed plan will continue aggressive treatment:

- Focus integrated, landscape-level treatment on priority areas, regardless of jurisdiction.
- Remove dead/infested trees on county road ROWs.
- Use participating and stewardship agreements to reduce cost, treat infested trees, utilize wood and reduce hazardous fuel.
- Maintain or increase "All Lands" (partner's) investments at the FY14 level of ~\$18 million (FY13 = \$16.6 million).

Investments 2012-2014 (rev. 4/1/14)			
Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy			
Working Group Entity	INVESTED FYE 2012	INVESTED FY 2013	BUDGETED INVESTMENT FY 2014
Lawrence County	\$ 1,170,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 620,000
Pennington County	\$ 553,535	\$ 169,636	\$ 335,000
Meade County	\$ 15,000	\$ 136,319	\$ 217,000
Custer County	\$ 22,948	\$ 101,155	\$ 30,000
Fall River County	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
SD Counties TOTAL <sup>6</sup>	\$ 1,766,483	\$ 1,162,110	\$ 1,204,500
Neiman Timber Co. <sup>1</sup>	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
State of South Dakota <sup>2</sup>	\$ 2,785,808	\$ 3,168,648	\$ 4,000,000
Private Land Owners (SD) <sup>3</sup>	\$ 726,645	\$ 713,000	\$ 250,000
Crook & Weston Counties	\$ -	\$ 919,000	\$ 1,218,673
State of Wyoming	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000
Black Hills National Forest <sup>4</sup>	\$12,742,646	\$10,175,000	\$10,480,000
Mt. Rushmore Nat. Mem.	\$ 27,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000
Bureau of Land Mgt (SD/WY)	\$ -	\$ 130,000	\$ 206,000
Nat. Resource Cons. Service <sup>5</sup>	\$ 225,148	\$ 241,218	\$ 192,000
<b>TOTAL PARTNER INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$18,373,930</b>	<b>\$16,608,976</b>	<b>\$17,961,173</b>
1. NTC investments in South Dakota and Wyoming			
2. FY14 includes H.B. 1050 appropriations. FY15 Funding Column = Collaborative "All Lands" MPB Response via FY15 Action Plan 2/10/14			
3. Amount SD pvt land owners liable for through cost-share			
4. BKF budget includes sales (180,000ccf), forest health and thinning.			
5. NRCS in SD: In FY13 \$70,000 for SDACD bug tree marking (to RC&F). \$171,218 for pvt land (13 contracts) thinning on 386 acres. FY14 includes: \$42,000 for RC&F to			

### Summary

The collaborative effort in the "All-Lands Approach" is making a difference! A team effort at problem identification and resolution leads to more effective actions across all ownerships.

Center of photo -  
thinning treatments  
make a difference.  
Thinned/treated  
areas are green  
with un-treated  
areas of dead trees  
surrounding them.  
Photo by Ben  
Wudtke, August  
2013.

